Early Settlers, Founding Of Pocahontas

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ward Kennison and their wives and other heroes of the big Shawnee battle at Point Pleasant, One of God's days I plan to go to Hillsboro to roam a bit.

JOHN McNEEL'S settling Little Levels, fancying himself to be a fugitive from justice, recalls how Walter Kelly settled Cedar Grove at the mouth of Kelly's Creek in Kanawha. County did the same thing. Rumor was he had killed a man in North Carolina and fled into the wilderness to get away.

Buckhannon was settled by the two Pringle brothers who army deserters from Fort Pitt. It never pays to trace one's family back too goshawfully far, does it? More of Pocahontas, come

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mouth of Knapps Creek and erected a cabin on the banks of the Greenbrier River. Subsequently they fell out in an argument over religion and one of them moved into a hollow tree.

Sewell later moved some 40 miles west where Indians killed him. His fame is kept alive in the Big Sewell Mountain range which bears his name. Big Sewell Mountain in Fayette County is the highest point on the Midland Trail (U. S. Route 60). Sewell was killed in September, 1776.

When Sewell and Marlin settled at present day Marlinton they established the oldest settlement on western waters in West Virginia.

When Pocahontas was formed Huntersville was made the county seat. Thither came hunters to trade pelts, sell ginseng, and other things. Since this trading post was the rendezvous of hunters the place naturally was given the name of Huntersville. Over 60 years ago the county seat of justice was transferred to Marlinton where it is to this day.

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JOHN M Levels, far fugitive fr Walter Ke at the mor Kanawha thing. Run man in N into the v

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he had a n of war Lamb Mcfollow the gave him aree years a captain h Virginia hazarding n the field Pocahongueriff in rm. Then e Legislaand then as a man l just like carefully es in the

brary at Upson Downs is a copy of Knauss' "Story of Camp Chase". It bears the names of those who died there—by the hundreds upon hundreds of thousands, too.

EVEN DOCTORS of medicine went to war in those days. One such medicine man was Dr. Cyrus P. Bryan. Folks up around Hillsboro will be able to recall the stories their grandparents told them about this man of mercy. There's where he returned to practice his profession in 1873. Dr. Bryan was a graduate of the Jefferson Medical College in the class of 1855.

During the war Dr. Bryan dropped his civilian practice and served as a soldier alongside his fellow Virginians. He was with the Bath County, Va., Cavalry. He acted as surgeon of the military post at Warm Springs, Va., in the fall and winter of 1862. From July 1. 1863, to April 5, 1865, he sat in the House of Burgesses, the lower house of the Virginia Assembly.

WHAT OF THE MINISTERS of Pocahontas during the Civil War? Well, to start out with, there just weren't many of them. Then sem

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WHAT OF THE MINISTERS of Pocahontas during the Civil War? Well, to start out with, there just weren't many of them.

One I know about was the Rev. George Preston Moore. His parents were both born in Pocahontas but died in Iowa, where the tall corn grows, to hear Iowans tell it. Reverend Moore was twice married. His second wife was born June 30, 1844 and her marriage anniversary was the day of her birth, in 1865. She was Ruth J. Gay. His first wife was Elizabeth M. Poage.

Reverend Moore was not one to galivant about. All his life was spent within a quarter of a mile of where he was born. He did not take part in the Civil War but did act as quartermaster agent at Edray. He was chosen to many public offices by his fellow citizens of Pocahontas. Long was he postmaster at Edray and for some time he was justice of the peace.

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of Franklin Andrew Renick. This man had Pocahontas connections.

On the first of July, 1862, this man had to enter the Confederate Army or submit a substitute. For some reason he elected to hire a substitute in his stead. Not all men telish the field, you know. Then it came to pass the substitute law was repealed.

Result of this emergency action of the Confederate government was that, in April, 1864, this man Renick had to go to war in person. This it was that Franklin Andrew Renick found himself two soldiers in one service, Company "E", 14th Virginia Cavalry. So he served until the drums of war ceased to throb and the flags of battle were furled. But fate caught up with him and the real Franklin Andrew Renick was captured as a prisoner of war on Sept. 9, 1864.

He was carted off to Camp Chase, Ohio, where he was confined until March 17, 1865. Then it was that the ravages of disease and stangation compelled him to take the cath of allegiance. He was released and sent home, just about half dead. He saw much of the corruption that obtained in that awful prison. He used to tell how he saw federal government food and medicines that were never allowed to reach their destination. He saw how federal officers could be bribed into letting prisoners escape for a price, or have their exchange expedited just for a handful of silver.

It was his opinion that letting the men starve and perish from disease was the best way of getting rid of the unfortunate wretches there confined by the Washington government. He was bitter as gaul over the whole thing, and who could blame him?

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Cornstalk at Point Pleasant Monday, Oct. 10, 1774, in the first

battle of the American Revolution.

ANOTHER EARLY PIONEER in Pocahontas was Col. John Mc-Neel. He was the first actual settler at what was called the Little Levels. He was born near Winchester, Va., but migrated to Cumberland Valley in Maryland. There he got into a fight with another fellow and thought he had killed his antagonist. Result was he hit the trail, counting himself a fugitive from justice.

One day he came to Little Levels, in about the year 1765. While hunting he came upon two white frontiersmen, Charles and James Kennison, in seared of a spot to settle. From them MoNeel learned that the man he had fought was not dead, nor was he injured overly much. He went back east of the mountains with the Kennisons. There he married Martha Davis, a woman of Welsh ancestry, having been born in Wales in 1743.

They came back to Little Levels and there McNeel built a log meeting house as a house of worship. It was called the White Pole Church, being one of the earliest churches west of the Alleghanies; maybe the very oldest.

McNeel joined Andrew Lewis's Army and fought in the Point Pleasant battle. While McNeel was away on the Point Pleasant camter of Joseph and Mi Eleven children were blest union, albeit M Reard died Oct. 6. been born Oct, 25, 18

In spite of the fa family when the sounded in 1861, William Neel felt honor bound state of Virginia whi birth. During the las of the Civil War he of Co. "F" of the Cavalry. In return his life in high place of honor, the citizen tas elected McNeel ti 1872 for a four year they sent him to the ture first as a deleg as a state Senator, B his neighbors could one can fearlessly raised and sprayed dark. He was an ho erate veteran when the him from his labors.

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Hard by Hillsboro in Pocahontas is the quaint cemetery where Mr. and Mrs. John McNeel are buried. There, too, lie Charles and Edward Kennison and their wives and other heroes of the hig Shawnec battle at Point Pleasant. One of God's days I plan to go to Hillsboro to roam a bit.

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first places of public worship on the Western Waters.

Just north of Millpoint is Stephens
Hole. Here Stephen Sewell, one of
the two first residents of Marlinton.
wintered in a limestone cave—running
water convenient—along in the 1750's.
He went to Greenbrier only to lose his
hair to the Indians, being murdered
on Big Sewell, the mountain which
bears his name to this day. My little
effort to point a moral fell flat with
the Ronceverte ladies as to how such
was all one great lesson for Pocahontas people, never to wander from their
own fireside, even if it is but a hole
in the wall.

There is a local tradition that a paymaster of one Ohio regiment, in the excitement of the Battle of Droop Mountain, absconded with the monthly payroll of his regiment, and hid the money in Stephens Hole until he could come back and safely carry it away. I never could find out how the news leaked out. If that Yankee did hide the money far back in

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Droop was end of this appearance crouching ntry of the punty. The have been records of bout 1775. le to one who lived that day. and Au der river igo.

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Some years ago a most interesting and valuable history reading book came into my hands. In it is recorded something about a carpet-bag governor of a southern state during the reconstruction times; a bad actor, infamous, among other things, for haying run off with a monthly payroll of the Ohio regiment for which he wasthe pay officer. Some of these times, through idle curiosity, I will try to check up to see if the local tale and aich like record of the book can be connected.

care to Nearby Stephens Hole is the Bridg-Also er Mountain. The predominating peaks of Bridger are the Pinnacle and the fine I Swago. Here in the Gap the Bridger illar to boys, James and John, were way-Moun- laid and murdered by Indians in 1784. Creek They were on their way from the Bridger home on Greenbrier River to the fort at Millpoint. There is controaber 6, versy as to the exact year, but I still portant hold for 1784. I will write a chapter t Vir- on it some week.

On up the Senses Trail-the War-

just above the mouth of Swago.

On Droop Mountain is an interesting cranberry bog, with its spagnum moss and interesting plants which like wet feet. The ladies did not care to mess around in the damp much. Also on Droop Mountain is the deposit of Droop standstone, white and fine. I am told this sandstone is peculiar to this region, stretching to Elk Mountain on the north and to Spring Creek Mountain to the south.

On Droop Mountain November 6 1863, was fought the most important

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the nev My father said the name Droop was kee did given because the eastern end of this the ho great mountain had the appearance on slir of drooping, or hanging or crouching got st from the open savannah country of the time Big Levels of Greenbrier county. The Son earliest record of the name I have been and able to find is the court records of cam Botetourt county along about 1775, ed where reference was made to one Charles Kennison, a juror, who lived beyond Droop Mountain. In that day, the line between Botetourt and Augusta county crossed Greenbrier river just above the mouth of Swago.

mountains on the east and the lofty ter was Back Alleghanies on the west and the downnorth. ne was lid not Hillsboro nestles in the Little Levels: pal. I there John McNeel and the Kennison paid Brothers settled in the uneasy 1760's; ls in there was established in 1843 the out Academy, a preparatory branch of the ttles University of Virginia; there in 1793 led. was organized Oak Grove Church,be sturdy and strong to this day; there on. was built during the Revoution the White Pole Meeting House, one of the first places of public worship on the Western Waters. Just north of Millpoint is Stephens

By SHIRLEY DONNELLY

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gions of the Alleghanies were there to be found more loyal southerners. To this day the county is over-

whelmingly Democratic.

Capt. D. A. Stofer mustered a company of Confederates at Huntersville and it was subsequently attached to the 31st Virginia Inlastry Regiment. The first com-

HUGH P. MCGLAUCHLIN Was born in Highland Co., Va., Aug. 1, 1843. His family moved to Pocahontas when this lad was but nine. Came the Civil War and the 18-year-old enlisted in Co. "1" 25th Virginia Infantry, Throughout the war he served the Confederacy. He was captured and taken first to Point Lookout, and from there to Elmira, N. Y.

He had one brother in the service who was also taken prisoner of war. This unfortunate brother died of scurvy in the Elmira prisoner-of-war camp. He died Nov. 11, 1864, After the war's close, Hugh McGlaughlin came back to his home in the hill country of Pocahontas and went to farming up there close to Huntersville.

WHEN HE WAS 30 years old Daniel A. Stofer moved to Pocahontas. He hailed from Augusta Co., Va., where he was born at

Middlebrook on May 5, 1821. He

THER EARLY COMER to make was Jacob Warwick. he lived was the part of bunty that is now included locahontas. He had a whole of Negro slaves. One slave was "Old Ben" and he ran the Warwick farming was called the Cloverm.

y when Warwick and "Old re out salting cattle on they were ambushed by as Warwick's horse was men beat it to the house ed there in safety. Then to the rest of the slaves refuge in the hills until of the redskins had arwick didn't stop until Jacksons River in Vir-

HE CIVII. WAR in 1861 ning had to be done ounty records because ent Pocahontas would with of the contending collety seat was at and William Curry in a dual status as and circuit clerk. He ankees were coming te armies of aliens at anything. So did court, who ordered o get a move on and records where sale.

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gions of the Alleghanies were there to be found more loyal southerners. To this day the county is overwhelmingly Democratic.

Capl. D. A. Stofer mustered a company of Confederates at Huntersville and it was subsequently attached to the 31st Virginia Infantry Regiment. The first company of volunteers in Pocahontas was that of Capt. Andrew G. Mc-Neel. It was organized at Little Levels. This was early in the spring of 1861 when the first news of the war was heard in Pocahontas. That first company was disbanded that fall because arms failed to reach them. Arms were shipped from Richmond but were copped off somewhere along the route.

Third company of Pocahontas volunteers to line up was the one commanded by Captain Arbogast of Greenbank, up there where the big astronomical ear is today being erected to listen to the music of the spheres. Arbogast's Company was attached to the 31st Virginia Infantry Regiment. Captain Arbosant seems to have been on the ball and was promoted to major in the regiment One Pocahontas officer by the name of Lt. H. M. Posque was killed in action at

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Middlebrook on May 5, signed up for service in with Mexico and perve Gen. Zachary ("Old Ro Ready") Taylor, destine come our 12th President volunteered in 1848 for ican War service.

When the Civil War he volunteered in the canative state of Virginia his brothers joined the my, too. One never retuied A. Stofer was at the sat the right time and commissioned a captair

This intrepid soldier five separate wounds it skirmish, all five wound flicted in less than one ute! One wound was it two were in his breast were in his left leg, What struck in the left leg bone was broken in two places. One of the last entered his breast